

0304495305

BA- 449

Smallwood  
South side of Thornton Mill Rd.  
near I-83  
Not accessible  
1810-20

Smallwood was probably built by Edward Hall on land patented by his father, Joshua, in 1771. This substantial stone dwelling of a prosperous farmer remains with several equally substantial out-buildings, indicative of the many which were once required to support rural life. The unusually large stone quarters and the vaulted underground storage room are noteworthy.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Smallwood

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South side of Thornton Mill Road near I-83

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles V. Roller

Telephone #: 472-2485

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1400

Folio #: 118

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-4119

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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Smallwood is a two storey rubble stone house, three bays in length with a lower two storey rubble stone wing at its west end expressed as one bay on its north side, two on its south; both sections have gable roofs and a flush brick chimney rises from each of the three gable ends. A one storey, two bay frame wing at the east end dates from the mid-twentieth century. Although the approach to this house is from the north, the south is, architecturally, the principal front.

The west wing traditionally is considered to be the older section of the house due to its smaller scale and more primitive character, but as there is neither a structural joint in the masonry between the two sections, nor quoins marking a former corner, such as are found on all other corners of this house, the two sections appear to be of contemporaneous construction.

The general character of the form and of the original details of this house relate it to Strawberry Hill (q.v.), and a similar construction date may be conjectured, ca. 1810-1820. An extensive superficial renovation occurred in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Entrances to the main house are in the middle bay; straight joints in the masonry at the south entrance and at the window above it suggest those features were slightly west of center originally, but they are virtually centered now. The north entrance and the window above it are still west of center. A secondary entrance was in the easterly bay of the wing's south front; it is now a window. Another secondary

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Smallwood, located on the south side of Thornton Mill Road just west of Highway I-83, is on a tract of land which was originally surveyed in 1727. The patent, however, was not issued until 1771, and this substantial stone dwelling with its dependencies was built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Joshua Hall was the patentee of Smallwood. After his death, the property was inherited by his two sons, and it was probably Edward Hall who erected this house. Edward acquired both his own inheritance and that of his brother, William. In addition, he had seventy acres of the property resurveyed in 1801. Thus it would appear that the improvements to the land were made shortly thereafter. Further support for this theory is gained from the Baltimore County tax records which valued the improvements at Smallwood at \$20 in 1813 and \$150 in 1818.

The house and land remained in the Hall family until 1878 when it was purchased by Edward Starr. The present owners acquired the property in 1945.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1813, 1818, 1823, 1833.

Patent for Smallwood: Patent book BC & GS 43, folio 375.

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.  
(Baltimore, 1850).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 66 A more or less

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James F. Mollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

MD.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Smallwood  
Western Run-Belfast Historical District  
Baltimore County, Md.

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Description Continued

entrance is through the west end wall of the wing, north of the chimney. Windows are 6/6; those of the main house have louvred blinds. The first storey windows of the south front are tall, extending nearly to the floor. Second storey windows of the west wing are small four-light casements, close to the floor. A window of similar size was in the first storey of the wing's north front, near the main house, lighting a former pantry inside; the window has been filled with stone-walling.

The wooden cornice of the main house is wide and it extends up the rakes from bold returns at the eaves. It appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century, as do the double doors with arched panels at the south entrance.

Internally, a hall extends through the middle bay from which the open stair rises to the attic floor; a single room flanks either side of the hall and the west wing is a single room on each floor, although originally a small pantry was partitioned out of the northeast corner of the wing, against the main house.

Most interior detailing in the first storey dates from the mid-nineteenth century alterations, including: the stair with its oval walnut rail supported on massive turned walnut newels and turned balusters and its scrolled step ends; the four-paneled doors, door and window architraves, the paneled splayed window jambs and undoubtedly the window frames and sash. Chair railing is removed. Six-panel doors,

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Description Continued

with panels nearly fully-raised, and an architrave with backband, remain at the doors to the west wing out of the west room of the main house; several similar doors remain in the second storey. The stair railing from the second floor to the third is probably original; its round rail is supported by plain square newels and rectangular balusters. No original mantels remain; one in the first storey east room, consisting of pairs of fluted Tuscan columns supporting a dentil cornice, came from another house; other fireplaces are closed, their mantels removed.

The original kitchen, in the first storey of the west wing, retains its large stone fireplace and a built-in oven to its south with a cast and wrought iron front; a raised-letter inscription on the oval shaped door reads:

JOHN BOUIS.  
PATENT . BALTIMORE

North of the chimney, an enclosed winding stair rises to the second storey of the wing. The exposed hewn joists of the kitchen were never plastered, but the former pantry, once a small square room in the northeast corner of the kitchen, had a plastered ceiling.

In the unfinished attic, the original rafters have been reinstalled, mitred at the ridge against a ridge beam. A pediment centered on the south slope has been removed. Unused mortises for collar beams are in evidence, and in their original location, the rafters supported lathe and plaster. Of interest is a long piece of chair rail used as a furring strip on one of the rafters.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Continuation Sheet #3

Question #7 Description Continued

The cellar extends under the main section of the house. Original straight sawn oak joists remain in the first floor structure and the fireplace hearths above are supported on log lintels.

In the south front yard is a mounting block, consisting of two single-stone steps leading to a large single stone top platform, supported by rubble stone.

Northwest of the house is a two storey stone quarters, two bays in length. Its lower storey is slightly below grade, with three entrances: in the south bay of the east side; in the north end, and in the north bay of the west side. The upper storey also has three entrances: in the south end; above the lower east door; and above the north end door. Other openings have, or had, 6/6 windows. Most wooden elements are missing and the building is approaching a ruinous state. The interior was plastered on the stone, and window jambs were splayed. Log joists support the upper floor, and there were partitions dividing the interior into about two rooms on each floor. No interior stair is in evidence, and the number of exterior doors may indicate that each room was an individual family's quarters, each with a private entrance.

North of the house is an underground, stone barrel-vaulted storage structure, the interior dimensions of which are approximately 7 by 13 feet. Its floor is twelve steps below grade; the sloping ceiling above the stone staircase, which descends from a concrete block, pyramidal-roofed shelter built into the hillside beneath the dwelling house, is

(See Continuation Sheet #4)



Continuation Sheet #4

Question #7 Description Continued

of large, rough stone slabs. From each side of the vaulted chamber, flues rise to grade, capped with ornamental terra-cotta chimney pots.

A large carved stone drip or splash block was immediately in front of the underground room's entrance. It may have been placed there to receive water used in washing root vegetables stored below, but more likely, it was placed there as a step, having been under the nearby well pump originally.

A large stone and frame bank barn stands some distance north of the dwelling. Its stone north end was torn down many years ago, and replaced by a frame wall. The entrance to the loft storey is through the framed east wall, and that storey extends beyond the lower west wall in framed construction, supported on round, rubble stone columns. The extended loft shelters the stone wall of the ground storey, with its several doors and windows opening into the former stalls. Most of the hewn timber frame, joined with mortise and tenon, remains in place.